

Claims

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is as follows:

1 1. A lighted bait container apparatus, comprising:
2 a container defining an open top;
3 a flashlight having opposed first and second ends and defining an interior space;
4 a first light source positioned in said interior space of said flashlight adjacent said first
5 end; and
6 a clamp member coupled to said container for releasably holding said flashlight such
7 that said first light source is positioned adjacent said open top.

1 2. The lighted bait container apparatus as in claim 1, further comprising a rim
2 assembly, said rim assembly including:
3 a rim body removably coupled to an upper edge of said container at said open top, said
4 clamp member being attached to said rim body; and
5 a lid pivotally coupled to said rim body and having a pivot point spaced apart from said
6 clamp member, said lid being movable between open and closed configurations.

1 3. The lighted bait container apparatus as in claim 2 wherein said rim assembly
2 includes:
3 a spring interconnecting said lid and said rim body for biasing said lid toward said open
4 configuration;
5 a latch assembly mounted to said rim body that is movable between a first position for
6 holding said lid in said closed configuration and a second position enabling said

7 lid to move to said open configuration, said latch assembly being biased toward
8 said first position.

1 4. The lighted bait container apparatus as in claim 2 wherein said rim body
2 includes a pair of nubs positioned on an exterior surface thereof and displaced from said
3 clamp member, whereby said container may be positioned in a generally horizontal
4 configuration on a support surface.

1 5. The lighted bait container apparatus as in claim 2 wherein said lid defines a
2 plurality of spaced apart holes for establishing an air flow therethrough.

1 6. The lighted bait container apparatus as in claim 1 wherein said container
2 includes a closed bottom with a continuous side wall extending upwardly therefrom, said
3 container adapted to hold a disposable bait cup therein.

1 7. The lighted bait container apparatus as in claim 1 wherein said flashlight
2 includes a second light source positioned in said interior space adjacent said second end.

1 8. The lighted bait container apparatus as in claim 7 further comprising a battery
2 positioned in said interior space of said flashlight and electrically connected to said first and
3 second light sources.

1 9. The lighted bait container apparatus as in claim 8 further comprising:
2 a first switch mounted to an exterior surface of said flashlight and electrically
3 connected to said battery and to said first light source for selectively allowing
4 current to flow from said battery to said first light source; and
5 a second switch mounted to an exterior surface of said flashlight and electrically
6 connected to said battery for selectively allowing current to flow from said
7 battery to said second light source.

1 10. The lighted bait container apparatus as in claim 7 wherein said first and
2 second light sources are light emitting diodes.

1 11. The lighted bait container apparatus as in claim 7 wherein said flashlight
2 includes a focus ring rotatably coupled to said second end thereof, said focus ring projecting
3 light from said second light source between wide and narrow beams when said second light
4 source is energized and said focus ring is rotated respectively.

1 12. A lighted bait container apparatus, comprising:
2 a container having a closed bottom and a continuous side wall extending upwardly
3 therefrom, an upper edge of said side wall defining an open top;
4 a rim body removably coupled to said upper edge of said side wall;
5 a flashlight having opposed first and second ends and defining an interior space;
6 a first light source positioned in said interior space of said flashlight adjacent said first
7 end;
8 a second light source positioned in said interior space of said flashlight adjacent said
9 second end;
10 a battery power source positioned in said interior space of said flashlight and
11 electrically connected to said first and second light sources;
12 means for releasably coupling said flashlight to said rim body such that said first light
13 source is positioned adjacent said open top.

1 13. The lighted bait container apparatus as in claim 12 further comprising a lid
2 pivotaly coupled to said rim body for movement between open and closed configurations,
3 said lid having a pivot point displaced from said flashlight coupling means such that said
4 first light source projects light through said open top when said first light source is energized
5 and said lid is in said open configuration.

1 14. The lighted bait container apparatus as in claim 13 further comprising:
2 a spring interconnecting said lid and said rim body for biasing said lid toward said open
3 configuration;

4 a latch assembly mounted to said rim body that is movable between a first position for
5 holding said lid in said closed configuration and a second position enabling said
6 lid to move to said open configuration; and
7 means for biasing said latch assembly toward said first position.

1 15. The lighted bait container apparatus as in claim 12 wherein said rim body
2 includes a pair of nubs positioned on an exterior surface thereof and displaced from said
3 clamp member, whereby said container may be positioned in a generally horizontal
4 configuration upon a support surface.

1 16. The lighted bait container apparatus as in claim 13 wherein said lid defines a
2 plurality of spaced apart holes for enabling an air flow therethrough.

1 17. The lighted bait container apparatus as in claim 12 wherein said flashlight
2 includes means for independently energizing said first and second light sources.

1 18. A lighted bait container apparatus, comprising:
2 a generally cylindrical container having a closed bottom with a continuous side wall
3 extending upwardly therefrom, said side wall having an upper edge defining an
4 open top;
5 a rim body removably coupled to said upper edge of said side wall;
6 a clamp member fixedly attached to said rim body;
7 a flashlight having opposed first and second ends and defining an interior space;
8 a first light source positioned in said interior space of said flashlight adjacent said first
9 end;
10 a second light source positioned in said interior space of said flashlight adjacent said
11 second end;
12 a battery power source positioned in said interior space of said flashlight and
13 electrically connected to said first and second light sources;
14 wherein said clamp member is configured to releasably receive said flashlight in a
15 friction-fit relationship;
16 a lid pivotally coupled to said rim body for movement between open and closed
17 configurations, said lid having a pivot point displaced from said clamp member
18 such that said first light source projects through said open top when said first
19 light source is energized and said lid is in said open configuration;
20 a spring interconnecting said lid and said rim body for biasing said lid toward said open
21 configuration;
22 a latch assembly mounted to said rim that is movable between a first position for
23 holding said lid in said closed configuration and a second position enabling said
24 lid to move to said open configuration; and
25 means for biasing said latch assembly toward said first position.

1 19. The lighted bait container apparatus as in claim 18 further comprising a pair
2 of nubs positioned on an exterior surface of said rim assembly and displaced from said clamp
3 member, whereby said container may be positioned in a generally horizontal configuration on
4 a support surface.

1 20. The lighted bait container apparatus as in claim 19 wherein:
2 said lid defines a plurality of spaced apart holes for enabling an air flow therethrough;
3 and
4 said flashlight includes a focus ring rotatably coupled to said second end thereof, an
5 interior surface of said focus ring having reflective surfaces for selectively
6 varying light emitted from said second light source between wide and narrow
7 beams when said second light source is energized and said focus ring is rotated
8 respectively.